

Projects 2004-05

Projects Description: *Students Preparing for Nontraditional Careers (Special Populations)*

GIRL POWER – Lake Region State College



Girl Power is the name of a two-week intensive activity designed to provide girls with exposure to high wage/high tech nontraditional careers in practice around the state. Such careers included architect, engineer, avionics technician, law enforcement, refinery operator and geologist, among others. Students were required to keep a journal of their experiences as they learned about the occupations being practiced by their mentors. They examined how they felt about each career,

likes and dislikes, pertinent educational requirements, and whether they could see themselves working in the various careers. Each student chose three fields for additional examination, including the math, science and technology courses required by their preferred fields. Examples of field activities included auto mechanic procedures, flight simulator experience, wearing an air force pilot helmet, practicing with breathing apparatus, and shooting and handcuffing procedures. The project was deemed a success given the numbers of women volunteering to be project mentors and the numbers of students back from last year, and interested in enrollment next year!

TECHNOLOGY CAMP FOR GIRLS – Williston State College

The purpose of the “Diva Tech” Technology Camp for girls was to encourage more girls to think about a high wage/ high tech career in Information Technology. This year we incorporated a book series called Cool Careers for Girls into our camp format. Twelve different non-traditional careers for girls are featured in Cool Careers. A main highlight of the camp was taking apart a working computer; making detailed instructions on how to reassemble it and put it back together in working order. The skills each camper gained will give them the confidence they need to enroll in IT courses as a high school student. They learned about the different areas involved in IT such as networking, computer hardware, web design, moviemaker and many more. Each camper received instruction in creating their own web page. The curriculum is designed to promote computer literacy and prepare students for the digital age.

WOMEN IN POLICING – Lake Region State College (LRSC)



This project involved direct outreach to area schools to foster consideration of careers in Law Enforcement targeting female students. In addition to outreach, area students visited Lake Region's Peace Officer Training Program and attended a mini-academy hosted in Fargo. The academy offered students opportunities to tour a departmental squad car, view a handcuffing demonstration, see a defensive tactics demonstration, fire a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun (paint pellets), and view the tools of the trade: body armor, taser, pepper spray, gun/holster/magazines, ammunition and a police radio.

PREPARING FOR NONTRADITIONAL CAREERS – Minot Public Schools



Diva and Dude Tech were held concurrently, with 55 female students and 21 male students in attendance. The day started with a game of Guess My Career, which approximated the question and answer format used on the 1950's show, What's My Line? Divas then set about designing web pages, constructing a shed, welding nameplates, repairing computers, painting car panel signs, checking car fluids and changing tires. Dudes designed cactus gardens, learned culinary skills, and explored the fields of nursing and childcare. Role models and student assistants helped throughout the day. A career counselor previewed the nontraditional classes that could be selected by the students for the 2005-06 school year. In addition to Diva and Dude Tech, Ms. Fix-It was held for displaced homemakers. In addition to teaching basic repair and maintenance technique, the Ms. Fix-It Project is designed to foster confidence, self-esteem, and consideration of nontraditional careers.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS (COG) - Richland County Area Career/Technology Center

This one-day exploration of nontraditional careers focused on middle school female students. The full day offered four two hour rotations in Construction Careers, Transportation Industry Careers, Architectural Desktop and Automated Design, and Computer Networking and IT Careers. The experience was highlighted by the participation of female student lab assistants in both the automotive and architectural drafting area resulting in a high quality career exploration experience. In addition, career counselors spent the day with students enhancing the career development activities with current occupational information on the various career opportunities the students set out to explore.



WOMEN IN ELECTRONICS - Bismarck Public Schools

The goal of the Women in Electronics Program was to introduce young female students to nontraditional opportunities in the field of electronics. The students engaged in hands-on activities in circuit construction and soldering. Role models included student mentors, a female instructor, the Technology Director for the Bismarck Public Schools, Ms. Lisa Feldner. A field trip to Montana Dakota Utilities rounded out the student's learning experience with first hand exposure to high wage/high tech jobs held by MDU staffers.

PREPARING FOR NONTRADITIONAL CAREERS – Grand Forks Public Schools



Grand Forks Public Schools offered students throughout the consortium a variety of activities to become acquainted with nontraditional careers. Activities that have proven their worth in previous years such as “Switch Day” were continued along with tours of local businesses, industries and postsecondary sites. New this year was the addition of the Community High School to the grant activities and the presentation of a nontraditional careers panel to all Grand Forks Public

Schools 8th graders, reaching about 800 students. Having the students match the panelist with his/her career was a great way to foster interest in nontraditional careers. Offering the Community High School students an up-close look at the tools and equipment used by the panelists (which ranged from high tech nursing to firefighting) was especially effective.

MEN INTO NURSING – Lake Region State College

This is the third year of the Men Intro Nursing project at Lake Region State College, which reports a change from having no male graduates in nursing to 5 in 2005. In order to continue the momentum, some proven strategies from previous years were continued and new ones, introduced. Nursing Academy Day proved a highlight of the project, and targeted male students and Native American students from Ft. Totten. At this hands-on event, the students had the opportunity to practice dressing changes, health assessments, blood pressure measurements, and observe intramuscular injections and intravenous devices being started. Graduating student nurses worked the various stations. Two male nursing students discussed their experiences as nursing students of both gender and racial minorities. This event was conducted in addition to media promotions, direct outreach activities, and activities to ensure bias free instructional and clinical settings.



WOMEN IN WILDLIFE SUMMER CAMP – MISU - BOTTINEAU

“Women in Wildlife” was a camp experience to expose young women to the field of wildlife management. Campers were given a chance to see what females can do in this male-dominated field and to have an opportunity to test it out and see if it is a good choice for them. Camp mentors included a district game warden, a botanist, several biologists and a conservation service director. Camp activities, found to be very effective, included test netting of area lakes with the ND Game and Fish, nest searches at Clark Salyer NWR, soil sampling and tree planting. Campers participated in habitat observation and bird identification, and were provided with manuals which they used at the refuge and out in the field. Test netting and handling fish turned out to be one of the camp's best activities!

THE BEST MAN FOR THE JOB MAY BE A WOMAN (Institute for Women in Trades, Technology, and Science) – Fargo Public Schools

Fargo Public Schools hosted statewide training presented by Ms. Donna Milgram, Executive Director of the Institute for Women in Trades, Technology and Science. Attendees participated in a lively interactive workshop involving the use of case studies and the development of school plans for recruiting and retaining female students in nontraditional programs. For additional information on the training, please see:

<http://www.iwitts.com/>



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR NONTRADITIONAL CAREERS – North Valley Career and Technology Center

The overall goal of the career fair was to provide students with opportunities to explore nontraditional careers that will lead to increased enrollments of nontraditional students in Center programs related to those careers. A variety of speakers representing nontraditional careers presented at each of the fairs. A male nurse, male artist, female auto parts person, and female UND engineering student gave information regarding their careers. Information included education or training needed, classes in school to take, school activities to participate in, community work students could volunteer to do, salary ranges, and options available within the career

areas. Other points brought out in the discussions related to the “pros” and “cons” of a nontraditional career. Each of the presenters had an activity, demonstration, or “hands-on” experience for students to experience. Feedback from the experience confirmed the need to continue efforts to introduce students to the world of nontraditional careers.